

<b>Program Overview</b>	<b>OV-1</b>
Planning Calendar.....	OV-14
Scope and Sequence.....	OV-16



<b>Unit 1</b>	
<b>Jesus Christ the Way</b>	<b>T1</b>
Note to Students.....	T1a
<b>Chapter 1</b> The Impact of Jesus.....	T2
<b>Chapter 2</b> Friendship with Jesus.....	T12
<b>Chapter 3</b> Scripture: A Portrait of Jesus.....	T22
<b>Chapter 4</b> The World Jesus Lived In.....	T32
<b>Chapter 5</b> The Early Life of Jesus.....	T40
<b>Chapter 6</b> The Mission of Jesus.....	T48
<b>Chapter 7</b> The Apostles, Mary, and Others.....	T56
<b>Chapter 8</b> Baptism and Confirmation.....	T66
<b>Chapter 9</b> Unit 1 Review.....	T76



<b>Unit 2</b>	
<b>Jesus Christ the Truth</b>	<b>T85</b>
<b>Chapter 10</b> Parables: Stories Jesus Told.....	T86
<b>Chapter 11</b> Miracles: Signs Jesus Worked.....	T96
<b>Chapter 12</b> Penance and Anointing of the Sick.....	T104
<b>Chapter 13</b> The Message of Jesus: Choose Life.....	T114
<b>Chapter 14</b> The Challenge of the Beatitudes.....	T124
<b>Chapter 15</b> Jesus' Kingdom of Justice and Truth.....	T132
<b>Chapter 16</b> Jesus' Kingdom of Love.....	T140
<b>Chapter 17</b> Unit 2 Review.....	T148



<b>Unit 3</b>	
<b>Jesus Christ the Life</b>	<b>T157</b>
<b>Chapter 18</b> Living Faith in Jesus.....	T158
<b>Chapter 19</b> Opposition to Jesus.....	T168
<b>Chapter 20</b> The Eucharist.....	T176
<b>Chapter 21</b> Jesus' Final Hours.....	T184
<b>Chapter 22</b> The Victory of Jesus.....	T194
<b>Chapter 23</b> Alive with the Spirit.....	T204
<b>Chapter 24</b> Matrimony and Holy Orders.....	T212
<b>Chapter 25</b> Unit 3 Review.....	T222
<b>Sacrament Chart</b> .....	T231

<b>Special Seasons and Lessons</b>	<b>T233</b>
Liturgical Calendar.....	T233
1 Feast of All Saints.....	T234
2 Advent.....	T239
3 Christmas.....	T244
4 Lent.....	T250
5 Holy Week.....	T258
6 Easter.....	T264
7 Pentecost.....	T269
8 Giving Thanks.....	T274
9 Making Sunday Special.....	T278



<b>What Catholics Should Know</b>	<b>T281</b>
What Catholics Should Know.....	T281
Prayer and How We Pray.....	T283
The Rosary.....	T286
Mysteries of the Rosary.....	T288
Stations of the Cross.....	T289
Formulas of Catholic Doctrine.....	T291
Celebrating and Living Our Catholic Faith.....	T294
Making Good Choices.....	T297
The Bible.....	T299
Showing Our Love for the World.....	T301
Student Book Cover Prayers.....	T303

<b>Saints and Feast Days</b>	<b>T305</b>
Calendar of Saints and Feast Days.....	T305
September.....	T307
October.....	T311
November.....	T316
December.....	T320
January.....	T323
February.....	T328
March.....	T331
April.....	T334
May.....	T336
June.....	T338
July.....	T341
August.....	T344

<b>The Catechist's Handbook</b>	<b>T349</b>
The Catechist's Handbook.....	T349
Profile of a Seventh Grader.....	T350
Areas of Growth.....	T351
The Catechist.....	T352
Tips for Good Catechesis.....	T354
What the Catechism Says to Catechists.....	T355
Techniques and Tools of Teaching.....	T356
Creative Activities.....	T362
Teaching Students with Special Needs.....	T364
Multicultural Awareness.....	T367
Assessment.....	T368
Catechist's Resources.....	T369
Parent-Youth Meeting.....	T371
Music List.....	T375
Song: "Follow Me".....	T380
Directory of Suppliers.....	T381
Online Resources.....	T383
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>T385</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>T405</b>
<b>Scripture Index</b>	<b>T411</b>



# Jesus Christ the Truth

## Goal

The students will know what it means to follow Jesus in daily life.

### 10 Parables: Stories Jesus Told

#### JESUS THE STORYTELLER

The students learn how the teachings of Jesus have been handed down by the Church. They become familiar with the parables that he told to teach truths about God and God's kingdom. They come to see that the kingdom is here and that they can live the spirit of the kingdom in genuine, self-sacrificing love. Then they analyze their fidelity to Christ's message.

### 11 Miracles: Signs Jesus Worked

#### JESUS THE MIRACLE WORKER

The students learn more about Jesus through some of his signs. They witness his power as well as his love and concern for others. They become aware of the importance of faith in those he helped. They consider ways of imitating his compassion by meeting the needs of people in today's world.

### 12 Penance and Anointing of the Sick

#### JESUS THE HEALER

The students study the way the Church shares in the healing ministry of Christ through the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. They consider the meaning and the importance of reconciliation and how it is accomplished. They also learn Christian attitudes toward the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation or a nonsacramental penitential service.

### 13 The Message of Jesus: Choose Life

#### JESUS THE TEACHER

The students consider the implications of Christian love. They see that Jesus calls us to go beyond the letter of the law. They reflect deeply on their responsibility to respect, nurture, and protect the gift of life. They study the Fifth Commandment, sins against life, and the works of mercy.

### 14 The Challenge of the Beatitudes

#### JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The students learn the new way of life that Jesus lived and taught—the Beatitudes. They study the meanings of each beatitude and practical ways to live them.

### 15 Jesus' Kingdom of Justice and Truth

#### JESUS THE KING

The students see how the Seventh and Tenth Commandments protect our right to freedom and to own property. They also study the Eighth Commandment, which protects our right to know the truth and to have a good reputation. They learn how the practice of honesty and truthfulness builds love and trust in the community.

### 16 Jesus' Kingdom of Love

#### THE SACRED HEART

The students are presented with the Christian view of the sacredness of sex. They see it in the context of true love, marriage, and family life. They learn that the Sixth and Ninth Commandments require fidelity as a protection of family life. They are taught ways to lead a chaste life.

### 17 Unit 2 Review

The students review the main concepts of the unit. They participate in a celebration of the teachings of Jesus.

## Parables: Stories Jesus Told

## JESUS THE STORYTELLER

## Faith Focus

Some truths taught by Jesus and his Church are contained in parables.

## Reflecting on the Faith Experience

Take a few moments to reflect prayerfully before preparing the lesson.

## Listening

“If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

John 11:9–10

## Reflecting

We can walk in darkness where Satan blinds us to the saving truth, or we can walk in the light of divine truth revealed by Christ. Jesus promised, “If you remain in my word . . . you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31–32) Through the life and message of Jesus, we are able to possess the complete truth. We are free to welcome it and act according to it or to choose to be like some of Jesus’ contemporaries who, though they had seen many signs, did not believe in him.

The parables were one way Jesus revealed truths. Through these stories about ordinary people and things, Jesus turned conceptions of God and God’s kingdom upside down. He taught that God was as surprising in his mercy as a king who cancels completely a servant’s enormous debt. He taught that the kingdom was open to sinners, outcasts, and foreigners. He taught that in God’s sight a contrite sinner is better than a righteous Pharisee. In parables, Jesus instructed us how to walk in light: to pray with perseverance, to use our talents, to share our wealth, and to show love even to our enemies.

By applying the parables to our own lives, we will have the light of life. We will be like the five wise bridesmaids whose lamps burned brightly to greet the bridegroom. We will be as deliriously happy as the merchant who became owner of the priceless pearl. But as disciples of the light, we also have a responsibility to let our light shine before all.

When we live by the truth that the Lord proclaimed, we are on a journey to the heavenly city—the city that has no need for the light of the sun or moon since it is lit by the radiant glory of God. (Revelation 21:23) Jesus’ life, death, and Resurrection assure us of the triumph of God’s kingdom over the forces of darkness. Our glory is to share in that triumph and to bring others to know it.

*What is my favorite parable?*

*What message does it hold for me at this particular point in my journey?*

## Responding

Spirit of Truth, open the minds and hearts of my students to a parable they most need to hear.

## Scripture for Further Reflection

**John 16:13–15** Only when we are enlightened by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, can we come to possess the full truth of Jesus’ divinity and its implications for our lives.

**Hebrews 4:1–13** We are invited to obedient faith in the Good News, for it teaches us what we must do to attain eternal life.

## Preparing for the Faith Experience

### Scripture in This Chapter

**Matthew 13:3–9, 18–23** Parable of the Sower

**Luke 12:16–21** Parable of the Rich Fool

### Catholic Social Teaching

Solidarity

### Church Documents

#### *Catechism of the Catholic Church.*

The themes of this chapter correspond to the following paragraphs: 543–546.

#### *General Directory for Catechesis #15.*

Jesus, in the parable of the sower, proclaims the Good News that the Kingdom of God is near, in spite of the tensions, conflicts, and difficulties of the world. The Gospel seed makes fertile the history of humankind and promises a rich harvest.

#### *National Directory for Catechesis #28.*

Jesus used his parables to invite his listeners to a new way of living based on faith in God, hope in the kingdom, and love for God and neighbor.

*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation #2* (Second Vatican Council). Revelation is realized

by words and deeds. Works of God bear out realities signified by words; words bring to light the mystery in works.

### Music in This Chapter

For a list of all the music suggested in this program, see page T375.

### Enriching the Faith Experience

Use the activities at the end of the chapter to enrich a lesson or to replace an activity with one that better meets the needs of your class.

## Before You Begin




1. Parables are stories that use images from everyday life in order to make a point. Jesus' parables were usually about the Kingdom of God. Because parables are so down-to-earth, Jesus seemed to use them in order to make his message easier for his listeners to understand. His parables, however, often contained some element that was unexpected or unusual. The meaning of a parable is never too obvious. The purpose of a parable is not to settle issues but to challenge us to think more deeply about how God works in our lives.
2. In the Synoptic Gospels, the most predominant image in the preaching of Jesus is the Kingdom of God. The

kingdom is not a geographical place; it is the activity of God working in the world. When God rules, those who are poor are vindicated, those who are oppressed are liberated, and justice and peace are experienced by all. God's kingdom is like a hopeful sower who harvests far more than he imagined. It is like a banquet you are invited to by surprise. God's rule will be fulfilled in the future. We also discover God's kingdom in our lives in surprising ways, calling for a response from us.

3. Make sure the students understand that the truths taught by Jesus and the Church do not change. Through the centuries, the Holy Spirit leads us to new insights into their full meaning.

4. Appoint students ahead of time to prepare to read the parables for **Kingdom Parables** on page 63. [See page T92.]
5. **BLM 35A–B** Prepare BLM 35A–B **Family Letter on Unit 2** to be sent home.
6. Encourage the students to pray, using page 8 of their Scripture booklets.

# Get-Ready Guide

Steps	Learning Outcomes The students will be able to	Action Plan	Materials
<b>Centering</b> 5–10 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>compare the theme of truth in Unit 2 with the theme of light.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome the students.</li> <li>Introduce the unit theme, Jesus Christ the Truth.</li> </ul>	Bible or New Testament bookmarked to Ephesians 5:8–9 <b>Option:</b> Candle or flashlight (check fire codes)
<b>Sharing</b> 40–55 minutes  Pages 61–64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify parables as stories that convey truths about God, God's kingdom, and how its members should live.</li> <li>discuss the meaning of the parables of the kingdom.</li> <li>define Words to Know. <b>evangelization</b> <b>Magisterium</b> <i>See the Glossary for definitions.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Page 61</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read and discuss <b>Living in the Light and Teachings of Twenty Centuries</b>.</li> <li>Explain how we grow in our understanding of Jesus' message. (T90–91)</li> </ul> <p><b>Page 62</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read and discuss <b>Stories That Teach</b>.</li> <li><b>Option:</b> Complete the activity <b>How a Short Story Works</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Page 63</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Option:</b> Complete the activity <b>Probing the Parables</b>.</li> <li>Read and discuss <b>Kingdom Parables</b> and complete the activity.</li> <li>Discuss what it means to be a member of the kingdom. (T92)</li> </ul> <p><b>Page 64</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read and discuss <b>Life or Death?</b></li> <li><b>Option:</b> Complete the activity <b>Rich Soil for the Parables</b>.</li> </ul>	Chart written on board: <b>CHANNELS OF TRUTH</b> $C \rightarrow (A \rightarrow T \rightarrow M)$ <div style="margin-left: 100px;"> <math>\downarrow</math>  <math>S</math> </div> Bibles or New Testaments Paper
<b>Acting</b> 5–10 minutes  Pages 64–66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>participate in a time of prayerful reflection.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Page 64</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray <b>A Moment with Jesus</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pages 65–66</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute BLM 35A–B.</li> <li><b>Option:</b> Go over the Summary and Review Activities.</li> <li><b>Option:</b> Do BLM 38 Quiz.</li> </ul>	BLM 35A–B <b>Option:</b> BLM 38 Quiz

## Additional Background

**doctrine**—a belief taught by the Church as true

**dogma**—a truth revealed by God that is officially defined by the Church as an article of faith for Catholics

**Magisterium**—the teaching authority of the Church

**parable**—a story of something familiar from life experiences used to teach a truth about God and the kingdom

## Centering

1. Choose one of the following activities, depending on your class and circumstances:
  - a. Have the students experience light in the darkness. Gather the class in a dark place, or make the classroom as dark as possible. Conduct a short discussion on darkness, our fear of it, and how it can be harmful. Then light a candle or turn on a flashlight and let the students discuss their observations.
  - b. Lead the students in a discussion of darkness and light.
2. Help the students relate the unit theme of Jesus the Truth with the theme of light.
  - a. Read or have a student read from Ephesians 5:8–9: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth."
  - b. What is the keyword in this passage? (light)
  - c. How is light related to truth? (Light helps us see what is true and real.)
  - d. Today we will consider how we receive the light of truth from Jesus the Son of God.

## Family Feature

### "The Little Way" Leads to Big Results

SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX had none of the power that comes from controlling wealth or armies. Yet this humble young French saint has influenced Catholicism as few others have. After she died of tuberculosis at the age of 24 in the late 1890s, her meditations were published. She's most famous for outlining a spiritual path she called the "Little Way." It's the practice of doing small things with great love, finding spiritual sustenance and patience to make it through the day.

- As Thérèse once explained to novices at the convent, "You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them."
- Dorothy Day, a co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, was deeply devoted to Saint Thérèse. "No act, however apparently

insignificant, is without meaning when done within the awareness of God's loving presence," she wrote. "Whatever our situation in life—a mother with children at home or a mother working, a store clerk, a scholar, a nursing home assistant, a suburbanite, an assembly line worker—all of us, in the ordinary and required activity of daily life, have available to us in the Little Way a means to holiness, to love as God loves us."

- Mother Teresa had more in common with Thérèse than her name. Like Dorothy Day, she dedicated herself to loving care of the world's poor. She wrote, "We can do no great things; only small things with great love." She also said, "Sometimes it is harder for us to smile at those who live with us, the innermost, than it is to smile at those who live with us. Let us. Let us. Let us."



Left to right: Saint Thérèse, Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa.

### Love Anyway

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

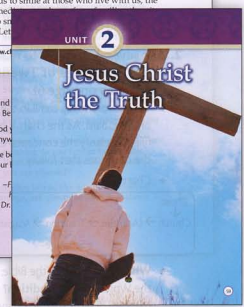
What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

60 UNIT 2



## UNIT 2 Jesus Christ the Truth

If you find  
jealous. Be  
The good  
good anyw  
Give the b  
Give your  
—F  
A  
Dr.



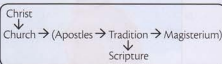
## Sharing

1. Have the students read silently **Living in the Light** on page 61 and answer the questions.

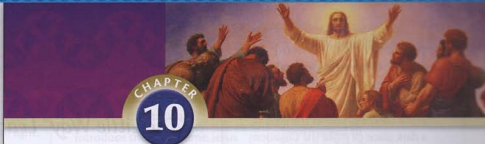
- ♦ **What is truth?** (what is real)
- ♦ **How do you feel when you find out someone lied to you?** (angry, hurt, disappointed, foolish)
- ♦ **We all appreciate knowing the truth. Can you think of a time when someone told you something and later you both discovered it wasn't the truth?**
- ♦ **Why can we trust Jesus to tell us the absolute truth?** (He is God. He is Truth. He cannot lie or be mistaken.)
- ♦ **What kind of truths did Jesus reveal?** (knowledge of human life and of divine things, the love of God and God's plan for us)

2. Ask several students to read aloud **Teachings of Twenty Centuries** on page 61.

- ♦ Call on volunteers to fill in the chart on the board. As the chart is being filled in, clarify the concepts, using the questions that follow.
- ♦ Chart



- ♦ **What is Scripture?** (the Bible; the Word of God) **Tradition?** (the message of Jesus that was handed on through the spoken words and example of the apostles and through the Catholic Church) [Refer students to page 9 of their books.]
- ♦ **Which came first: Scripture or Tradition?** (Tradition)
- ♦ **What is a dogma?** (a truth revealed by God that is officially defined by the Church as an article of faith for Catholics)
- ♦ **Are all doctrines dogmas?** (No. They are not all officially defined as articles of faith for Catholics.)
- ♦ **What dogmas have you studied this year?** (the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Immaculate Conception, the Virgin Birth, the Assumption)



## Parables: Stories Jesus Told

*Jesus the Storyteller*

### Living in the Light

What is it like to walk in the dark without being able to see well? What might happen?

**It is difficult and frightening. You bump**

**into things, stumble, fall, or lose your way.**

Jesus calls himself the Light of the World. He shows us the right path in life and helps us see where we are going. Jesus, the Son of God, is the source of all truth. All his life was a teaching. His teachings are the truth that light our way to the Father. They give us knowledge of how to be a better person in the light of God's commandments. Jesus revealed the love of God and God's plan for us. He proclaimed the message of salvation.

If we follow Jesus' teachings, we will know the happiness of his friendship. Walking with Jesus is the sure way of following God's will and eventually entering the kingdom. Walking with him, we live well on earth and arrive safely at the kingdom. What God has revealed, especially through Jesus, is the foundation of our faith.

### Teachings of Twenty Centuries

Jesus commissioned his apostles to teach the Good News to all nations. Through their

ministry of evangelization, the apostles handed on Jesus' message through the words they taught and the good example they gave to others. They shared Jesus' mission in stories, customs, prayers, and creeds, or professions of faith that we find based in the New Testament.

Bishops, the successors of the apostles, also have the right and duty to teach everything Jesus has revealed. The teaching authority of the Church is called the **Magisterium**. It is at work primarily in the pope and in the bishops teaching together and in union with the pope. The Magisterium is present in liturgy and in the practice of the faith—wherever doctrines contained in Scripture and Tradition are taught. A doctrine is a belief the Church holds and teaches. A doctrine that is officially defined by the Church as a truth revealed by God, an article of faith for Catholics, is a dogma. Some doctrines are more important than others. It is Church doctrine that Jesus is God and that Mary was sinless.

For 2,000 years the Church has preserved the doctrines Jesus taught and has gained new insights. Truth does not change, but the Holy Spirit continually leads the Church to a deeper understanding. On our journey of life, we can look to the Church for truths to guide us—the truths that Jesus taught.

- ♦ **What is the Magisterium?** (the teaching authority of the Church) **The word is derived from the Latin word for "teacher." The official pastors of the Church have the right and duty to teach the truths of Scripture and Tradition.**
- ♦ **Who is primarily responsible for official Catholic teachings in the Church?** (the pope and bishops)
- ♦ **Why is our understanding of some truths Jesus taught different from that of the early Christians?** (The Holy Spirit has guided us to a deeper understanding of truths.)

3. Explain to the students how we grow in our understanding of Jesus' message.

- ♦ The ideas, customs, and values of people living at a particular time and place affect greatly the growth of the human race. With each new century, we come to a better understanding of many things. We learn from what we have seen and experienced.
- ♦ The Church also grows in understanding the message of Jesus. The mysteries he taught us are so deep that there is always more to understand. Jesus did not give us detailed directions for handling every problem that might arise. Rather, he gave us principles that enable us to find the best response to a problem.



- Slavery is an example. The principles of Jesus imply that slavery is evil, but only gradually did people realize it. The Church always preached the rights of all people but did not always understand what these teachings meant or how they applied to problems. In early Christian times, Christians were urged to be kind to their slaves, but slavery was not condemned. It took many centuries before people understood that slavery is a grave offense against human dignity.

- Have the students read silently **Stories That Teach** on page 62.
  - As you read, underline words that help explain what a parable is.

- What did you underline? (ordinary happenings, stories, comparison, kingdom, judgment)

- Option** Call on a student to read aloud the Parable of the Rich Fool under **How a Short Story Works** on page 62. Discuss the questions that follow the parable.

- The characters are a rich man and God.
- The setting is a large farm.
- The man's harvest is great. He decides to build larger barns to hold all his harvest and to relax and enjoy life. God tells him he will die that night.
- The man doesn't know what to do with his great harvest.
- The man is greedy. He plans to hoard his wealth. He spends time gathering earthly wealth instead of treasure for heaven.
- As the man talks to himself, we learn that he plans to live an easy, selfish life.

### Stories That Teach

Jesus was a master teacher. He used stories about the stuff of his everyday life: sowers and seeds, fishermen and nets, shepherds, thieves, and yeast. He spoke of ordinary happenings: looking for a lost object, getting paid for work, and asking a friend for help. The stories Jesus told about God and his kingdom are called parables. In a parable, a comparison is made between something familiar and the truth Jesus wants to bring to our attention.

A parable usually has an unexpected twist that shows the Kingdom of God in images we use in everyday life. It encourages us to see things differently.

After hearing a parable, we make a judgment about the events in the story and then apply it to ourselves. Often we find that our way of thinking and acting is being challenged by God. The discovery challenges us to change our lives for the better.

### How a Short Story Works

Read the Parable of the Rich Fool and then answer the questions on a sheet of paper.

"There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!" But God said to him, "You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?" Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God."

Luke 12:36-21



The Rich Fool, Jesus Math Collection, France.

- A story has a main character and other characters. Who are the characters in this parable?
- A story has a setting. Where does this story take place?
- A story has a plot, the action. What happens in this story?
- The action centers around a struggle. What problem does the main character face?
- A story's main character might have a flaw. What is the rich man's flaw?
- Conversation in a story tells us what a character is like. How do you know what the rich man is like?
- Some stories have surprise endings. What happened to the rich man that he did not expect?
- Stories mirror real life. Are there people like the rich man? Have you ever been like the rich man? Do you know of anyone who had an experience like the rich man's?
- Stories draw us into them and make us think. How do you think the rich man felt when God spoke? Why was he a fool? What do you think happened after he died?
- Stories have a theme, a message. What meaning do you find in this parable? What questions does the story make you ask yourself?

A parable has layers, like an onion. To reveal its meanings, ask questions like those above.

- Death puts an end to everything.
- Many people today devote all their energy to making money and do not consider the next life.
- The man probably felt shock, despair, and regret. He was foolish for living as if this life were everything. His belongings went to someone else. He might be spending eternity in purgatory or hell.
- Answers will vary.


6. **Option** Divide the class into four groups.

◆ Assign each group a parable in **Probing the Parables** on page 63 to read and match with a truth it teaches.

◆ Have someone from each group tell the story and a truth it reveals.

7. Have a student read aloud the opening of **Kingdom Parables** on page 63.

**What are some words found in the parable you just read that complete the statement of the truth it teaches?**

8.  Discuss with the students **what we are to do as members of the kingdom.**

**✚ Solidarity**

**What are we supposed to do as members of the kingdom?**

(forgive those who hurt us; reach out to those who feel left out; help those who are poor or sick; develop the gifts God gave us; listen to the Word of God and follow it)

**Probing the Parables**

Read each parable and match it with a truth.

- The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9–14, image at right)
  - The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4–7)
  - The Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1–16)
  - The persistent friend (Luke 11:5–8)
- God loves sinners and is glad when they return to a good life.
  - Sinners who truly repent even at the last minute will have the fullness of joy in heaven.
  - Beware of being proud of your goodness and judging others.
  - Keep praying to God, and your prayers will be answered.



**Kingdom Parables**

Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God, which is already here but not yet fully. In this kingdom, God and God's people live together in peace, justice, and love. The parables listed

in the table below give insights into the kingdom. Read them and fill in the blanks in each statement. Notice which Gospel contains all of these kingdom parables.

THE PARABLE	A TRUTH IT TEACHES
<b>The Mustard Seed</b> Matthew 13:31–32	1. From a small beginning the kingdom <u>grew and spread throughout the world</u>
<b>The Yeast</b> Matthew 13:33	
<b>The Net</b> Matthew 13:47–50	2. On earth <u>the good</u> and <u>the bad</u> live together until <u>the end of the world</u>
<b>The Weeds</b> Matthew 13:24–30	
<b>The Pearl of Great Price</b> Matthew 13:45–46	3. The person who finds the kingdom feels <u>very happy</u>
<b>The Hidden Treasure</b> Matthew 13:44	To possess it, he or she is willing to <u>sell everything</u>
<b>The Wedding Feast</b> Matthew 22:1–14	4. The kingdom is open to <u>all people</u> . We are free to <u>enter or not</u>



Class  
 → Chapter → Tradition → Movement  
 → Tradition

- ◆ What is a dogma? (the truth revealed by God that is officially defined by the Church as an article of faith for Catholics)
- ◆ Which came first: Scriptures or Tradition? (Tradition)
- ◆ What is a dogma? (a truth revealed by God that is officially defined by the Church as an article of faith for Catholics)
- ◆ Are all doctrines dogmas? (no. They are not all officially defined as articles of faith for Catholics)
- ◆ What dogmas have you studied this year? (the Trinity; the Incarnation; the Immaculate Conception; the Virgin Birth; the Assumption)

...the Church also grows in understanding the message of Jesus. The mystery he taught us are so deep that there is always more to understand. Jesus did not give us detailed directions for handling every problem that might arise. Rather, he gave us principles that enable us to find the best response to a problem.

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9. Call on students to read aloud

**Life or Death?** on page 64.

- ◆ As the first paragraph is read, list these words on the board: *path, rocky ground, thorns, rich soil.*
- ◆ Which situation stands for someone
  - who accepts Christ but then gets in with a bad crowd that leads him or her into doing wrong? (thorns)
  - who refuses to go to church or follow the teachings of Christ? (path)
  - who reads Scripture, prays, and tries to love as Jesus did? (rich soil)
  - who grew up Catholic but when hardships came, gave up the faith? (rocky ground)

10. **Option** Read aloud the opening paragraph of **Rich Soil for the Parables** on page 64.

- ◆ Have the students form small groups. Assign one of the three situations to each group for discussion.
- ◆ Have each group report its conclusions, perhaps in the form of a skit.
- ◆ Use these questions to evoke further thought:
  - Why do you think it is a Christian response?
  - Do you think most people would react that way or only a few?
  - Do you think the reaction is just?
  - How could a person handle that kind of response?



**A Moment with Jesus**

Pause for a moment and silently reflect on the kingdom parables and the truths that they teach about the Kingdom of God. Jesus used common images such as a wedding feast, weeds, or a small seed. Take some time to reflect on how you would describe the Kingdom of God. What common image would you use?

In your own words, ask Jesus to help you recognize the signs of the kingdom around you. Then thank him for the gift of his word in the Gospels.

**Life or Death?**

In Palestine, farmers probably scattered seed all over the land and then plowed it under. In the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:9–19–23), Jesus told what happened to the seed sown by a farmer. Some seed fell on the edge of the path and was eaten by birds. Some fell on rocky ground. It grew, but then withered away for lack of roots. Some fell among thorns and was choked by them. But some seed fell on rich soil and produced a wonderful crop.

The parable shows what happens to the Word of God. Some people do not listen to it at all. Some accept the Word at first but are too weak to live by it. Some accept the Word, and then other people or things of the world kill it in their hearts. In some people, however, God's Word lives. They spread his kingdom wherever they are. To which group do you belong?



64 UNIT 2

**Rich Soil for the Parables**

Will the parables take root in your heart? Write how a member of the kingdom would respond to these situations. Then write what might make it difficult to respond that way.

1. Your friends start teasing a classmate who is unpopular.

Christian response: Change the subject.

Possible difficulties: Your friends might realize what you're doing and resent it.

2. A classmate you would like to be friends with has dared you to shoplift a CD. You realize you could be caught and arrested if you do not succeed.

Christian response: Explain that you value your life too much to do the dare.

Possible difficulties: That person might not become your friend.


3. You and several others are at a friend's home. Your friend's parents are not there. The friend suggests drinking some liquor. There is a lot of it, and the parents will not miss it.

Christian response: Say no.

Possible difficulties: Your friend might tease you and call you a baby.

16. **Checkpoint** Distribute copies of B.M.37 Parable Parallels. Have the students work in pairs. Check their answers.

## Acting

-  Lead the students in praying **A Moment with Jesus** on page 64.
  - Invite the students to prepare for prayer by becoming still and taking several deep breaths.
  - Lead the students through the prayer, allowing sufficient time for silent reflection.
- Option** Lead the students through the **Summary** and **Review Activities**, pages 65–66.
- Option** **BLM 38** Distribute and administer **BLM 38 Chapter 10 Quiz**.  
Use this opportunity to assess the students' understanding of the main concepts in the chapter.
- At the end of class, have the students tear out page 60. Encourage them to share this Family Feature with their families.
- Have the students tear out and take home pages 65–66 to review.
- BLM 35A–B** Distribute to the students copies of **BLM 35A–B Family Letter on Unit 2**. Encourage the students to share this letter with their families.

### CHECKPOINT

- Were the learning outcomes achieved?
- Do any students have difficulty understanding the concepts regarding the truth the Church teaches?

## CHAPTER 10 Summary

### Remember

How do we come to know the teachings of Jesus? We come to know the teachings of Jesus through Scripture, Tradition, and the teaching of the Church.

### What is a parable of Jesus?

A parable of Jesus is a story that teaches about God and the Kingdom of God through everyday experiences.

### What did Jesus say about listening to God's Word?

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it." (Luke 11:28)

### Respond

Suppose the world were to end tonight. What would you wish to have changed about yourself to be better prepared to meet Jesus? Write it in your reflection notebook. Then list some steps you can take to make this change happen.

### Reach Out

- The message of Jesus calls us to a way of life that is very different from the way of the world. Find a newspaper story or magazine article about someone whose response to a need was Christlike. Talk about it with someone at home. Then write a paragraph about what you learned from the person's actions.
- All the saints met opposition as they tried to live the teachings of Jesus. Sometimes they had to overcome their personal feelings. Sometimes they met criticism, ridicule, and even persecution. Research the life of a saint. Suggestions: Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint Julie Billiart, Saint Thomas More, Saint John of the Cross, Saint Isaac Jogues.

Find at least one situation in which that person followed Jesus' way even when facing opposition. Share the story with a family member.

- The more peace, justice, and love are brought into the world, the more the kingdom is present. What can you do to further the kingdom in your family, your neighborhood, and your world? Gather with one or more family members and brainstorm for ideas. Then select one idea and create a plan for how you will carry it out.
- Be open to God's Word today. Pay attention to a homily, read a section of the Gospel, or read an article in a Catholic periodical. Share what you learn with someone in your family.
- Design a poster that is based on one of the parables. Ask a family member to help you create it. Then display it where it can be seen and talked about.

### Words to Know

evangelization  
Magisterium



65

## Chapter 10 Enriching the Faith Experience

Use the following activities to enrich a lesson or to replace an activity with one that better meets the needs of your class. For additional enrichment ideas, such as preparing for the Sunday Scripture readings or using activities on the Christ Our Life Web site, see page T370. For activities related to the liturgical season, see Special Seasons and Lessons, which begin on page T233.

- Have the students present a few of the parables as plays. Ready-made scripts can be found in *Acting Out the Miracles and Parables* by Mary Kathleen Glavich, S.N.D. (Twenty-Third Publications). You might have students play charades by acting out a parable and letting the class guess which one it is.
- Post pictures of the parables. Put a quotation from each parable on a card. Challenge the students to match each card with a picture and name the parable. If pictures are not available, the students could simply name the parable.

3. Have the class set up a display of objects and pictures of objects that Jesus used in the parables: seeds, a piece of net, weeds, a wrapper from a package of yeast, pictures of fishermen, shepherds, a banquet. The students can list the parable in which the item is used on a poster or banner as part of the display.

4. Have the students set a parable to music.

5. Help the students make a Parable Quilt. List symbols for different parables. Let students sign up for the one they wish to work on. Have them design their parable on sheets of paper. Glue the parables on a large sheet of paper with a border and connecting pattern to form a quilt. If you have the necessary resources, you may be able to create a quilt out of fabric.

6. Ask the students to list five sayings of Jesus they know by heart. Make a tally to find out which sayings are listed most often.

7. Direct the students to write a parable in storybook form, complete with illustrations.

8. Challenge the students to make a rebus that states a parable's message. Have them exchange papers and try to figure out each other's message and the parable that conveys it.

Example:

Keep praying for what you need—

The Persistent Friend  
(Luke 11:5–8)



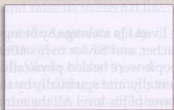
9. Have the students design a book jacket for one of the parables. Post the book jackets.

## CHAPTER 10 Review Activities

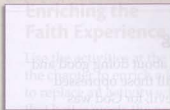
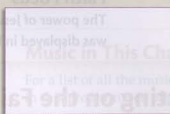
**Parables in Art** Choose a parable about God. Write its title and message. Then draw a picture to represent it. Do the same for the Kingdom of God and for the members of the kingdom.



Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
God: \_\_\_\_\_



Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
The Kingdom of God: \_\_\_\_\_



Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Members of the Kingdom: \_\_\_\_\_

**True or False** Write T if the statement is true or F if it is false.

- F 1. Scripture was written before Tradition began.
- T 2. The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church.
- F 3. The Church can change dogmas.
- T 4. The Holy Spirit leads us to new understandings of Christ's teachings.
- F 5. Parables are stories meant only for the people in Jesus' time.
- T 6. The Kingdom of God is already here.
- T 7. The parables urge us to listen to God's Word and to serve the kingdom.

66

10. **BLM 36** Distribute BLM 36

**The Price of Admission.** Have the students complete the BLM independently. Discuss their answers.

11. Have the students make a booklet or a story strip of the parable on the book jacket, using pictures from magazines and the Internet.

12. Tell the students to write a New Year's resolution for a character from a parable.

13. Have the students rewrite a parable in an expanded form, adding description, detail, and events that came before and after.

14. Direct the students to summarize a parable in a couplet, as in the following example:

From a tiny mustard seed  
The Church grew very large indeed.

15. Have the students tell or write a parable from the point of view of one of the characters.

16. **BLM 37** Distribute copies of BLM 37 **Parable Parallels.** Have the students work in pairs. Check their answers.